



State Senator Ron Jelinek  
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STATE SENATOR

Ron Jelinek

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## RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

**Michigan School Report Cards**  
<https://oeaa.state.mi.us/ayp/>

**School Matters**  
(Analysis of School District Performance)  
[www.schoolmatters.com](http://www.schoolmatters.com)

**School Violence Hotline**  
1-800-815-TIPS  
[www.michigan.gov/safeschools](http://www.michigan.gov/safeschools)

**MICHild**  
(Health Insurance for Uninsured Children)  
1-888-988-6300

**Michigan Merit Award**  
[www.michigan.gov/meritaward](http://www.michigan.gov/meritaward)  
1-888-447-2687

**Michigan Education Trust**  
[www.setwithmet.com](http://www.setwithmet.com)  
1-800-MET-4-KID

**Michigan Education Savings Plan**  
[www.misaves.com](http://www.misaves.com)  
1-877-861-MESP

## Free Publications Available

The return of the school year provides a great opportunity to teach the leaders of tomorrow the importance of civic education. In my office, I maintain a collection of publications to help teachers, students and their families learn about the Michigan Constitution, the legislative process and the organization of state and local government. If you are interested in receiving this material, please fill out the order form below and return it to my office. Or e-mail the office at [senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov).

- ☐ Michigan Constitution    ☐ For the People, By the People    ☐ Citizen's Guide to State Government  
☐ The Legislative Process in Michigan - A Student's Guide

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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MAIL TO: SENATOR RON JELINEK, P.O. BOX 30036, LANSING, MI 48909-7536

# education update



STATE SENATOR

Ron Jelinek

Dear Friend:

It's time for *Back to School* and I want to update you on some important legislative news. I am pleased to report that we recently put the finishing touches on the School Aid budget, providing more money than ever to our public school students – over \$13 billion!

We also took up a wide range of education issues that may be of interest to you and your family. Please do not hesitate to call me toll-free at (866) 305-2121 or e-mail me at [senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov) if you would like further information on any of these topics.

Best wishes as you and your family enjoy the promise and excitement of a new school year!

Sincerely,

Ron Jelinek  
State Senator  
21st District

"Our children's future – our state's future – depends on having the best education we can provide."

Senator Ron Jelinek





# EDUCATION REMAINS TOP PRIORITY

One of my earliest commitments to the families of the 21st District was to make sure education remained a top priority in the state budget. Despite lean economic times, I am pleased to report we again put heavy emphasis on quality education at every level. I want to share with you some of the highlights of the legislative spending plan we passed, including:

- Increasing the per-pupil foundation allowance by \$210. Overall school funding has increased every year except one since Proposal A was approved by the voters in 1994.
- Preserving the Merit Scholarship for students attending Michigan colleges and universities. Since its inception in 2000, the scholarship program has helped make college education more affordable for more than 345,000 students.
- Increasing funds for at-risk, pre-school, math and science, adult education and K-3 literacy programs.
- Setting up equity payments for some school districts to help bridge the gap in funding.
- Increasing funds for the state's universities and community colleges by over \$61 million, and protecting need-based scholarships.
- Saving the Michigan Tuition Grant for students attending private colleges.

Our children's future – our state's future – depends on having the best education we can provide. I believe our budget priorities ensure our schools have the resources to do the job.

## Schools to Conduct More Safety Drills

**E**mergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. Senate legislation signed into law this summer requiring additional safety drills will help students and teachers better prepare for emergencies. The new law requires drills to be conducted during recess, lunch or other times when students are not in the classroom.

Many parents and educators have voiced concern that students wouldn't know what to do if a fire or tornado, or emergency drill happened while they were in the lunch room, out at recess or attending an assembly. They have usually been taught to follow their teacher single file out of the classroom. I supported this new law so students can be as prepared as possible in many different situations.

## This Library is Open – 24/7

*It's 8 p.m. on a school night and your fourth-grader announces that her report on Abraham Lincoln is due... TOMORROW! Your local library closed an hour ago. Now what?*

You can surf the Internet and hope you find information not linked to something inappropriate for your child. You can also check the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), Michigan's anytime, anywhere library. Type <http://mel.org> and you'll have immediate access to millions of documents, evaluated Web sites, magazine articles, encyclopedias, almanacs, newspaper articles and more.

Best of all, MeL is child-friendly. MeL databases provide research tools just for kids that make it easy and safe for children to get the information, graphics and images they need to do homework and special projects.

A service of the Library of Michigan, MeL is free to all Michigan residents. Access it from your local library or from home, work or school – anywhere there is an Internet connection. All that's required is your Michigan driver's license or state ID (check the privacy policy online).

## Senator Jelinek: We Must Prepare Students for the Future

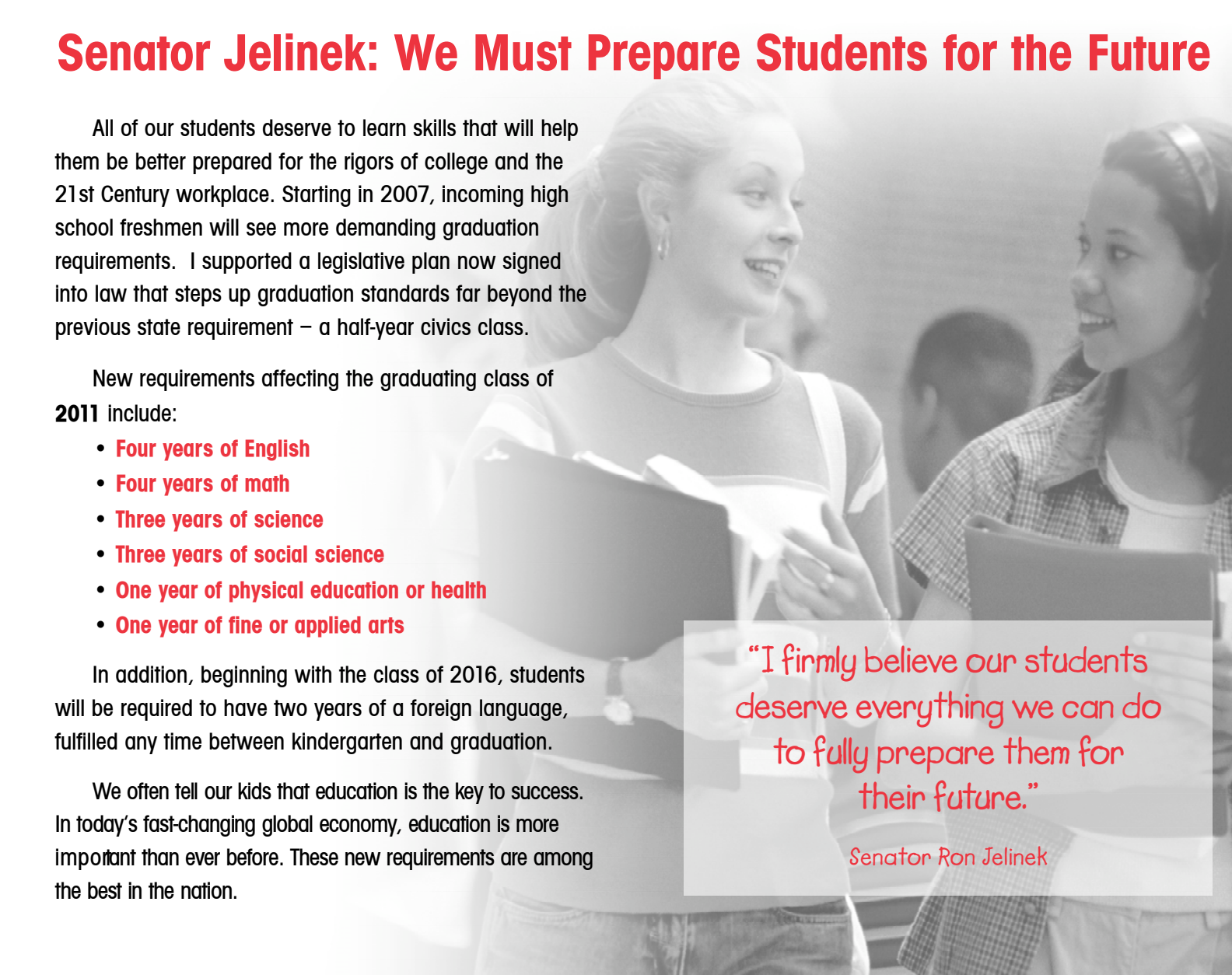
All of our students deserve to learn skills that will help them be better prepared for the rigors of college and the 21st Century workplace. Starting in 2007, incoming high school freshmen will see more demanding graduation requirements. I supported a legislative plan now signed into law that steps up graduation standards far beyond the previous state requirement – a half-year civics class.

New requirements affecting the graduating class of 2011 include:

- **Four years of English**
- **Four years of math**
- **Three years of science**
- **Three years of social science**
- **One year of physical education or health**
- **One year of fine or applied arts**

In addition, beginning with the class of 2016, students will be required to have two years of a foreign language, fulfilled any time between kindergarten and graduation.

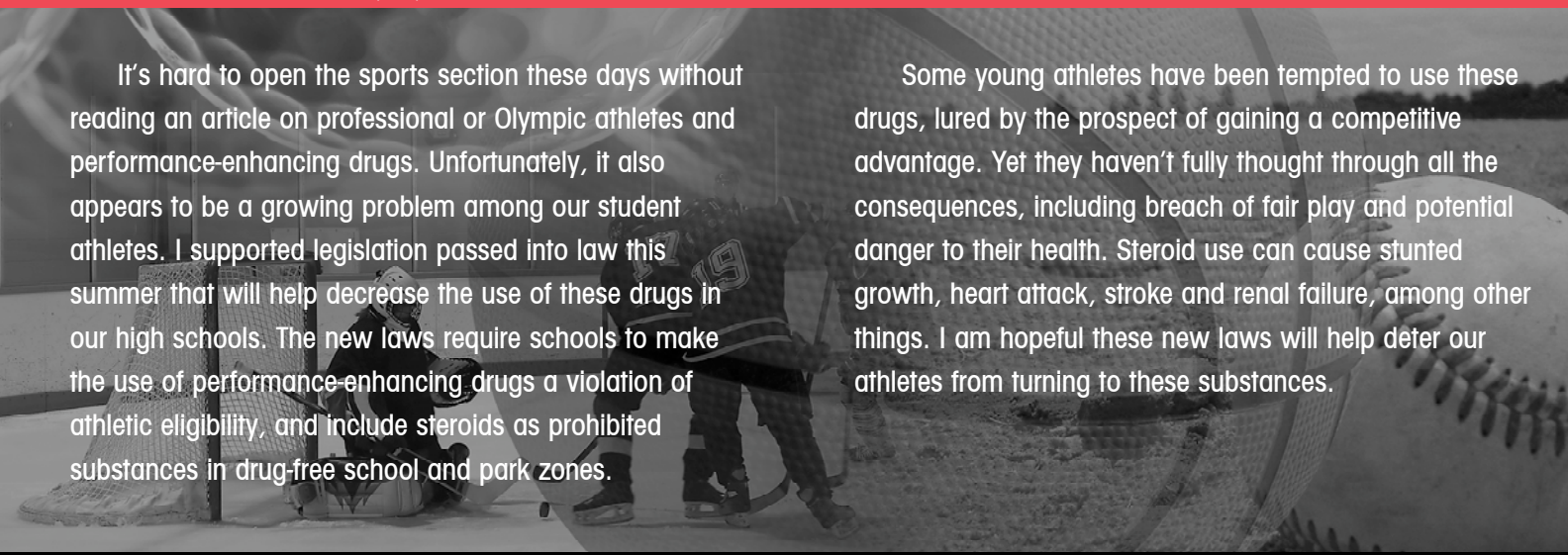
We often tell our kids that education is the key to success. In today's fast-changing global economy, education is more important than ever before. These new requirements are among the best in the nation.



*"I firmly believe our students deserve everything we can do to fully prepare them for their future."*

Senator Ron Jelinek

## Jelinek Supports Bill to Protect Student Athletes



It's hard to open the sports section these days without reading an article on professional or Olympic athletes and performance-enhancing drugs. Unfortunately, it also appears to be a growing problem among our student athletes. I supported legislation passed into law this summer that will help decrease the use of these drugs in our high schools. The new laws require schools to make the use of performance-enhancing drugs a violation of athletic eligibility, and include steroids as prohibited substances in drug-free school and park zones.

Some young athletes have been tempted to use these drugs, lured by the prospect of gaining a competitive advantage. Yet they haven't fully thought through all the consequences, including breach of fair play and potential danger to their health. Steroid use can cause stunted growth, heart attack, stroke and renal failure, among other things. I am hopeful these new laws will help deter our athletes from turning to these substances.